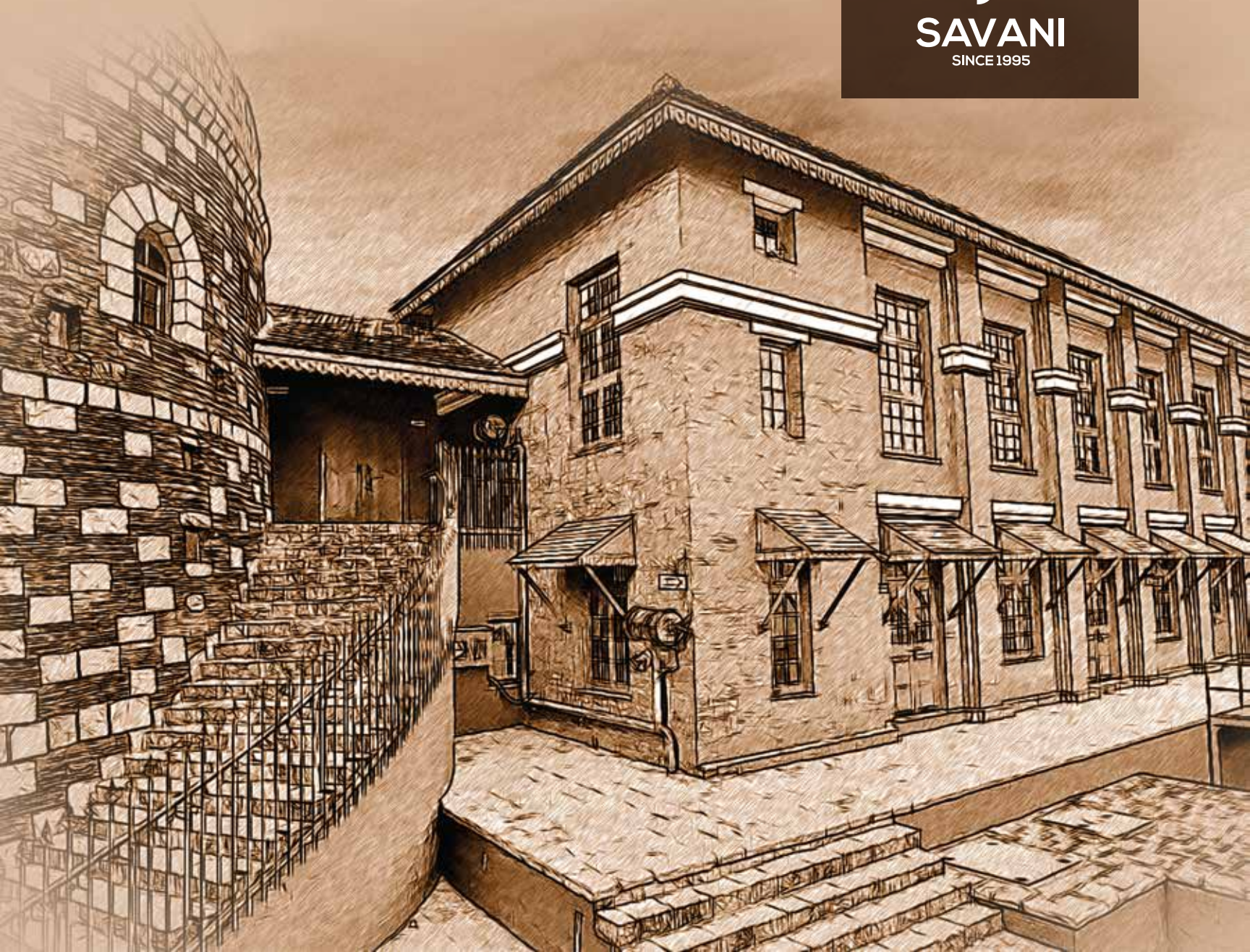


“We keep heritage
THINGS ALIVE”



SAVANI
SINCE 1995



SAVANI HERITAGE

Truly, we live our promise of ‘restoring the lost glory’

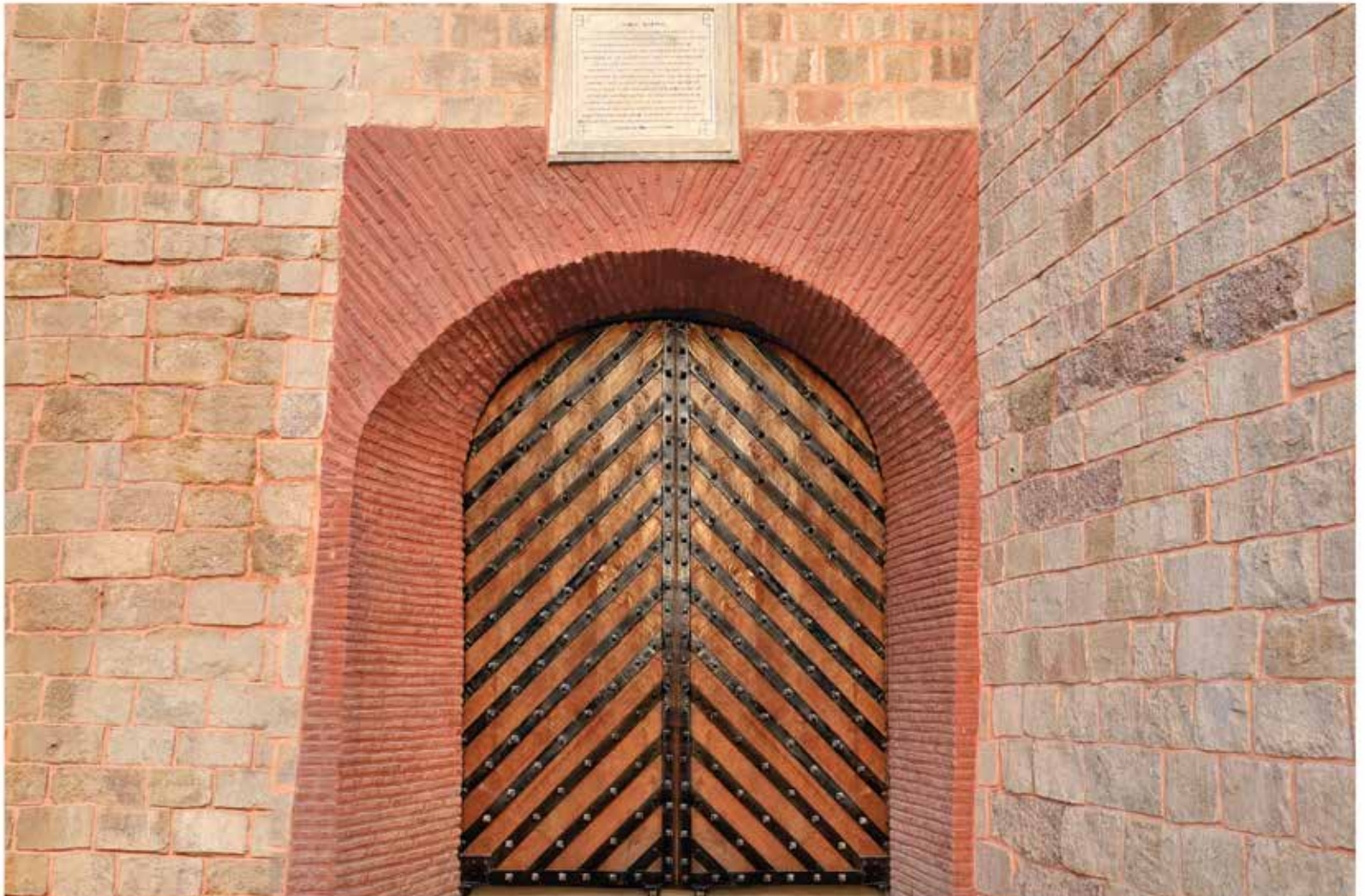


In Sanskrit means ‘Restoring the lost Glory’. History comes alive, when we walk into one of these Heritage structures - the sounds of warm trumpets, beating of drums, Sky high ceilings, Pieces of art, Grandiose of live of Kings and Queens, Voices of masses, Famous speeches and heart pounding sense of patriotism and glory. Every step into heritage takes us back in time and reminds us of the sense of architectural perfection, magic of artistry, weaving culture into the colourful tapestry of life and a sense of connection and bonding to help us define – ‘Who we are’ and be proud of our rich cultural & architectural heritage.

We at Savani Heritage Conservation Pvt. Ltd. have been living the same dream for over 23 years, restoring more than 100+ Heritage sites. We have been ‘Recreating History’ to bring alive the lost Grandeur of these heritage sites. We have extensively researched to bring traditional and conventional techniques into modern environment friendly approaches. Our use of Lime mortar enables use of lime pointing, construction of mouldings and cornices in lime mortar, waterproofing and restoration of Mangalore tile pitched roofs, cleaning stone facades, removing deposits, etc. We also rework the foundation and structural strengthening of weak structures. We are adapt at retro-fitting of heritage structures and working on ceiling, gilding and interiors. Recreating art work, light fittings, story boards, visuals, etc is part of our every day jobs of our highly trained and creative team.

Restoring a Rare Architectural Genius

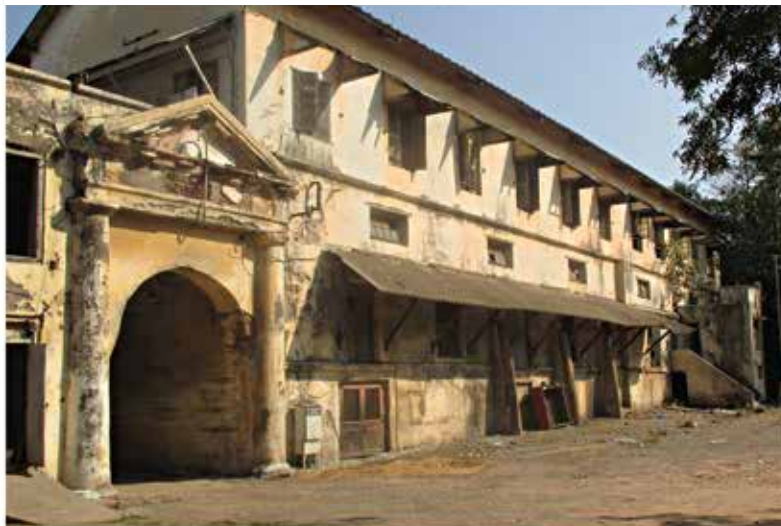
Surat fort is a live testimony of the acumen & quality of conservation work that only Savani Heritage Conservation Pvt. Ltd., could have pulled it off. Before the restoration work began, it was barren, worn out and clumsy. What you see now is all beauty and reminiscence of ancient glory. Savani Heritage Conservation Pvt. Ltd., has indeed infused life in the dying piece of marvel. Heritage of Surat fort is restored and presented with pride to the people of Surat. It has taken more than 18 months to bring the fort back to its old glory. A task to match the construction bit by bit and brick by brick was a herculean task. The design, art work, and science of construction was thoroughly studied and emulated in the conservation. What is seen today is the result which is nothing short of a miracle. To bring back Surat fort to its feet is a pure labor of love which has recreated the magic of medieval times. The coffee table with its interiors and picturesque environ in the fort exudes rich grandeur that illuminates the imagination and provides visitors with a royal ambience to re-experience the time and tides of the ancient era.



Surat fort is truly a structural marvel. It is a labor of love, it's mystic and at the same time built with finesse comprising of affluent features i.e. Amazing safety features, use of rare construction material, superlative furnishing, excellent exteriors, glorious entrance and highly decorative interiors. Normally the entrance gives you the glimpse of the beauty of the monument and the same was true to surat fort when it was built as it had the strategic objective. Though with time the entrance looked the pale shadow of its earlier splendor, the original gateway needed refurbishing as the door was completely out of shape and its iron parts were distorted and damaged. The refitting of carved iron parts, polishing of the wood, plaster to the walls, redesigning of the entrance and shape to the entrance now portrays the real glory of surat fort.



A drone view of symbolic Surat Fort which served as a meeting point and harbor for ancient rulers.



The interiors and exteriors add to the charm of any structure, surat fort needed a fair but of refurbishing as the exteriors looked barren and ailing. It needed scientific and at the same time artistic treatment to restore the history. A lot of lime, jaggery syrup was used to bind the structure again. Insensitively done plaster was removed. Removal of topmost layer of floor revealed a new floor level. The windows were refitted with wooden shutters, stained glass & overhangs. The brickwork was restored with proper finishing using arais plaster.

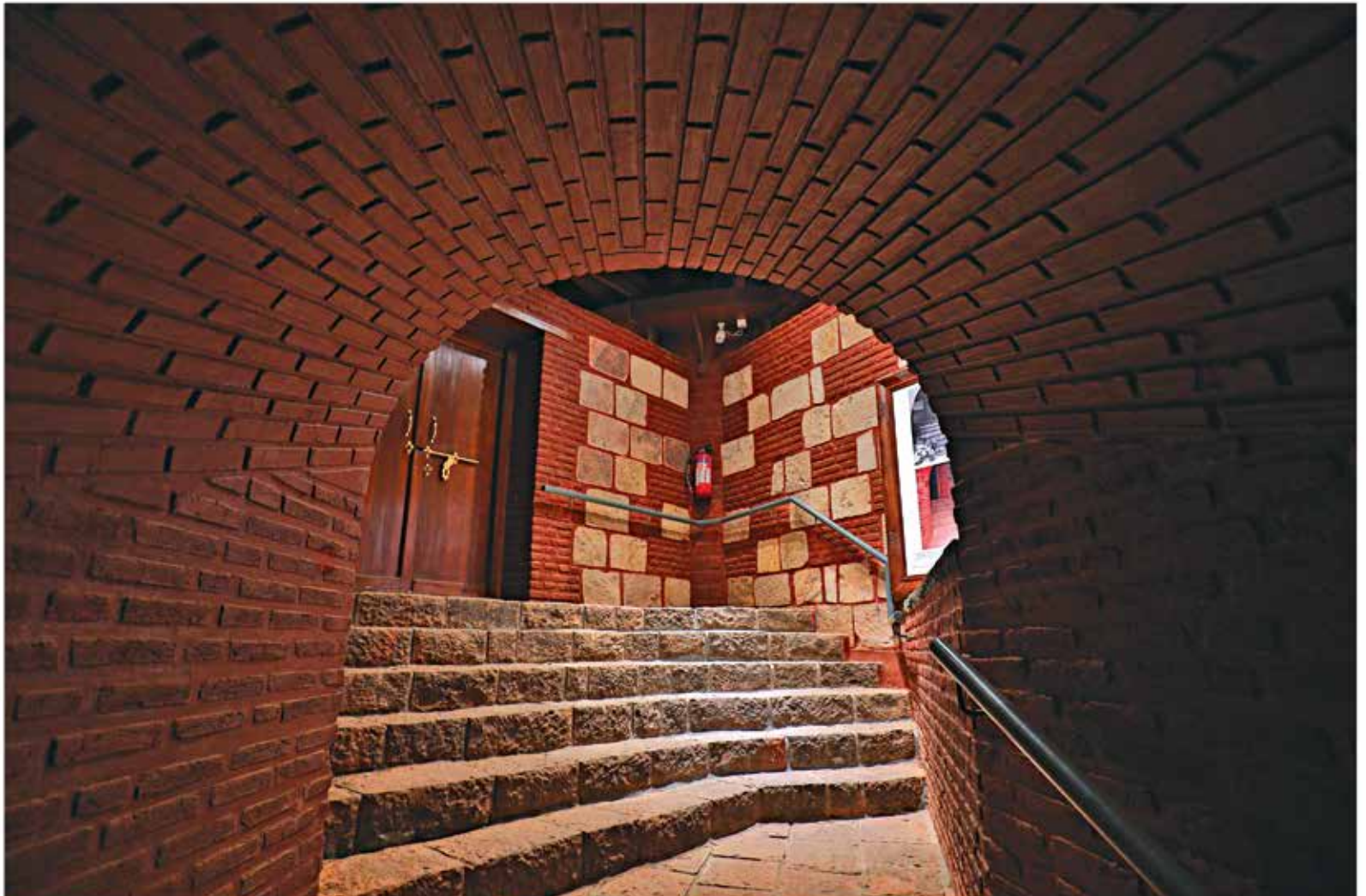


It was highly evident that the work volume was huge and being a medieval monument it also required a deep understanding of structure and material used then. After a lot of research, the work began to bring alive the beauty of exterior. It needed a lot of painting, polishing and pointing. The external paint and plaster was scrapped off to show case the brickwork that has now been restored. It required high degree of pointing and finally it was coated with weather proofing layer. The windows were refitted with wooden shutters, stained glass and overhangs.





The eastern ramparts had been covered and encroached to become bathrooms for the offices housed here in the late 1990s. This took away fair share of its beauty as originally they were meant for some other purpose. It was originally meant for gun pockets, these bathrooms & offices were removed to reveal gun pockets. It has now been restored fully to the original stone construction. Each gun pocket has been substantiated with canons that were procured from all over the city. Surat fort now has the intrinsic feature that grabs the eyeballs and that is the use of canons at the terrace, immaculately fitted between the walls that make it a treat to watch.



It was hard work at the archway was almost invisible after paying great attention to details and removing several layers of plaster, the real brick work was revealed which was the charming factor. The bricks required treatment and maintenance of pointing and weather proof coating which was given to restore its shape and it was also ensured that it remains visible to catch the beauty.





The pathway along side has great interiors needed plaster and pointing, original brick work was restored astutely and beautified with deigns of ancient decor. The Fresco Painting was neatly done to ensure its ancient look and at the same time reveal its freshness to a visitor.

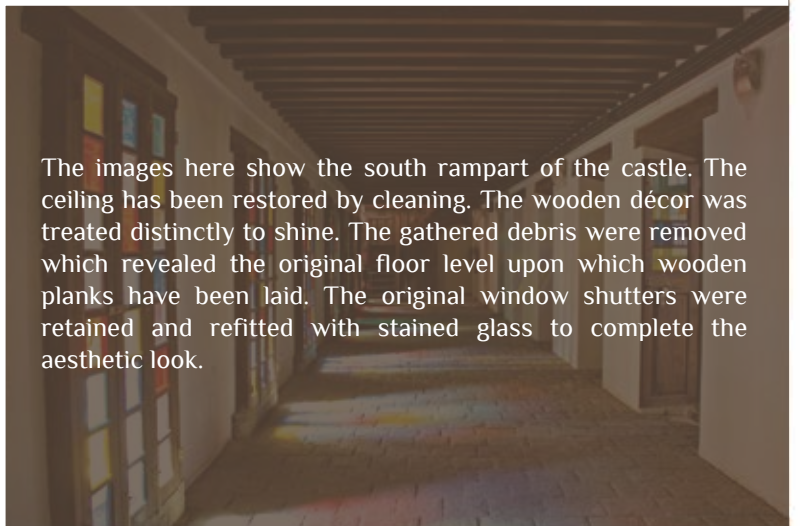


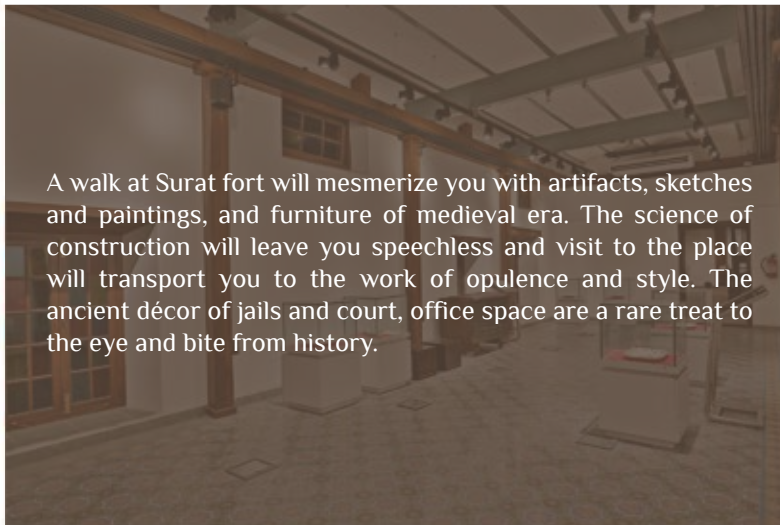
Plaster panels in the partition walls have been removed and replaced with wooden frames to create a porous space – more effective for an exhibition gallery. However, the partitions from the late 1900s have been retained to suggest the most recent intervention – that of the police department – as well as to break the volume into interesting spaces. The window shutter have been replaced and fitted with stained glass. The walls have been finished with arash plaster.





The images here show the south rampart of the castle. The ceiling has been restored by cleaning. The wooden décor was treated distinctly to shine. The gathered debris were removed which revealed the original floor level upon which wooden planks have been laid. The original window shutters were retained and refitted with stained glass to complete the aesthetic look.



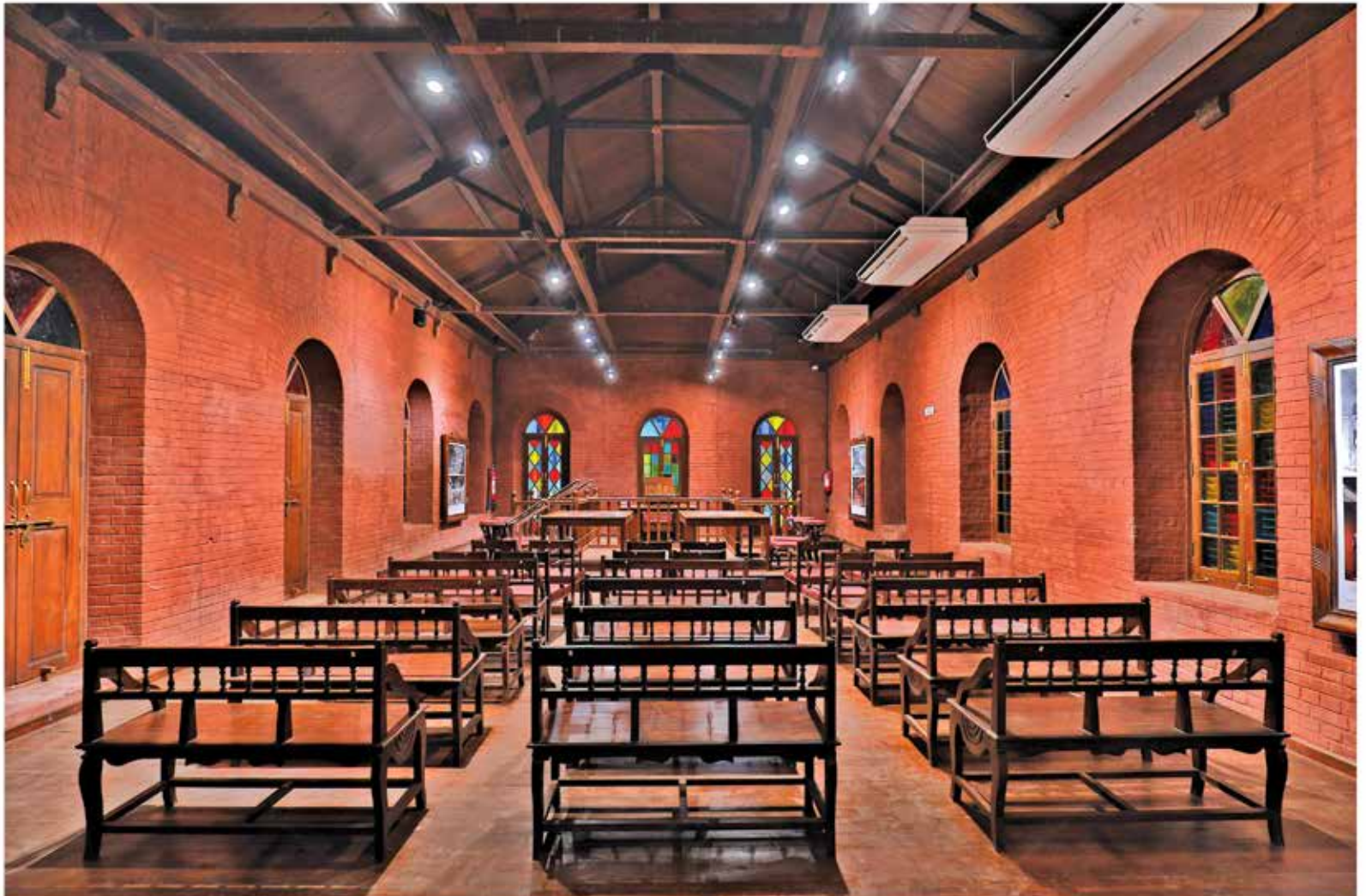


A walk at Surat fort will mesmerize you with artifacts, sketches and paintings, and furniture of medieval era. The science of construction will leave you speechless and visit to the place will transport you to the work of opulence and style. The ancient décor of jails and court, office space are a rare treat to the eye and bite from history.





Removal of the topmost layer of flooring opened up two construction layers. The rampart on the right and the linear room on the left. These have been restored and reconnected with a staircase. The flooring has been restored to replicate the original using wooden planks. Additional supports have been placed along the linear room- as seen in the form of columns to strengthen the structure especially the main beam. Window shutters were retained and refitted with stained glass to complete the overall finishing

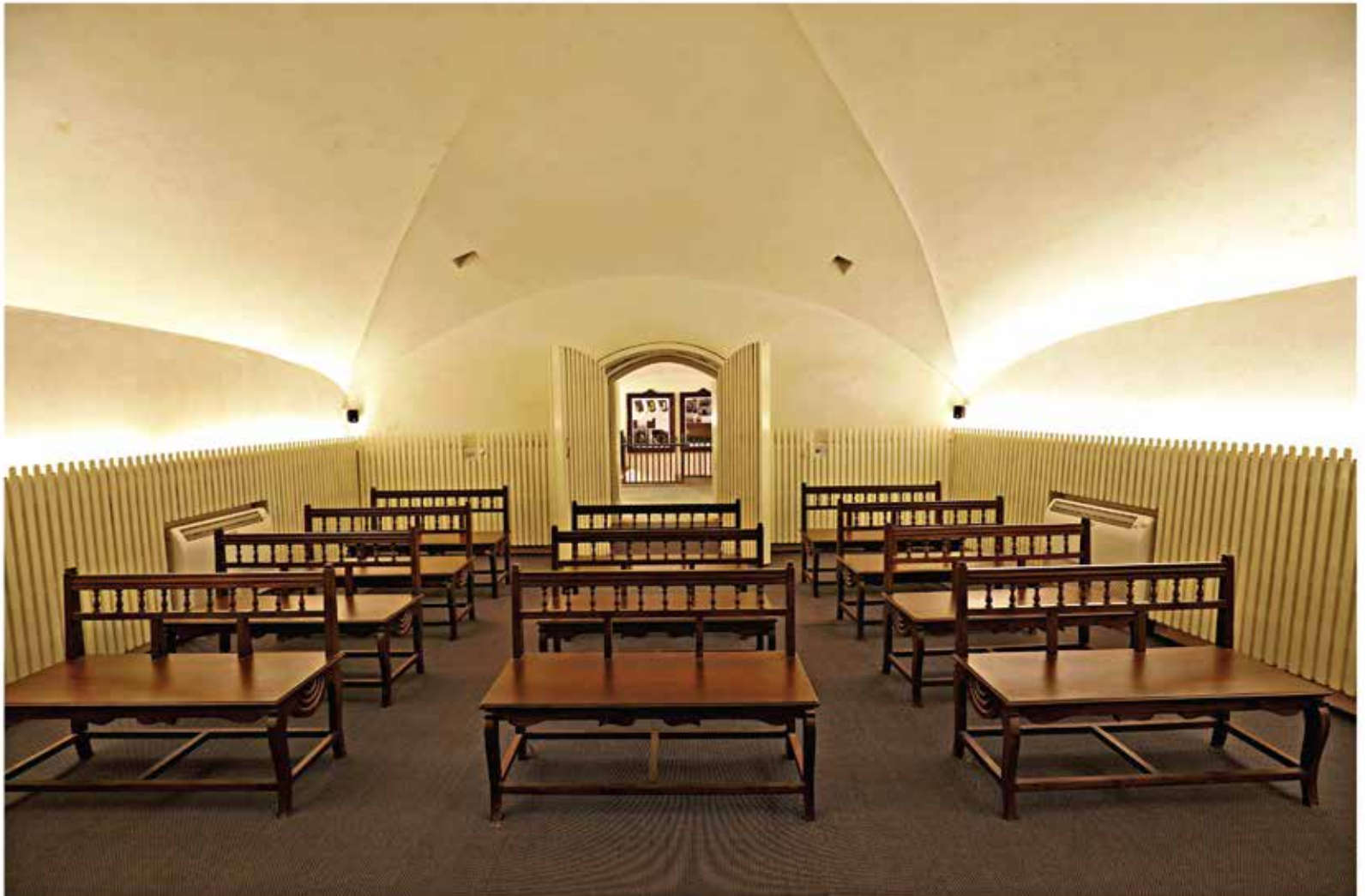


Removal of false ceiling revealed a dutch roofing system. The membrane of the system has been restored to expose the original construction system. Historic evidence indicated that the floor drop might have had a court hidden until then. This contributed immensely to the theme of restoration. Hence, this room being has been presented as a dutch court room with exposed brick walls, wooden floors and stained glass windows.





Removal of the false ceiling revealed an intricate as well as strong British roofing system in perfect structural condition. The chambers of the system have been salvaged neatly, treated for longevity, broken ones replaced to restore the original construction system. Same has been executed for window shutters. The floor has been finished with stone tiles resembling Victorian British design, specially acquired for the project.



Interiors & exteriors are now fully restored which tells you a story. Surat fort is a window to peep into the lavish life style of nawabs and kings of medieval times. With full restoration and revival of olden structure it has so much to offer to the society at large. A fort restored and revived using various construction techniques from the olden days, reworking on carvings, lime stone binding, brickwork, stone work, red bricks and sand which engulfs the imagination. Every bit is put together neatly with diligence and distinction.











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